DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 262 783 IR 051 293

TITLE	Attacks on the Freedom to Learn: A 1984-1985 Report.
INSTITUTION	People for the American Way, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	85
NOTE	35p.
AVAILABLE FROM	People for the American Way, 1424 16th Street NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20036 ($3.00).
PUB TYPE	Information Analyses (070) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Academic Freedom; *Censorship; *Elementary Secondary Education; *Instructional Material Evaluation; *Instructional Materials; Intellectual Freedom; Moral Issues; Moral Values; *Public Schools

ABSTRACT

The third annual study of censorship incidents in public schools revealed that during the 1984-85 school year, censors took aim at an array of courses, textbooks, teaching methods and materials, as well as a wide assortment of books, plays, and films. More than 42% of the challenges that were directed at instructional materials resulted in removal or restriction of the material. The study also found that: there was a dramatic increase in censorship activity during the 1984-85 school year; almost one-fourth of censorship incidents reported were initiated by local organized pressure groups aligned with the national Far Right censorship network; almost half of the reported incidents were challenges to public school courses and the curriculum; and complaints in more than one-fourth of the incidents focused on charges of secular humanism or alleged violations of the Hatch Amendment. This document includes brief discussions of: The Censors and Their Targets; Censorship and the Law of the Land; The Attack on Public Education; The Old Standbys; and Secret Censorship. A state-by-state list then provides a sampling of censorship incidents that occurred in 46 out of 50 states during 1984-85. Only those incidents reported to and subsequently documented by People for the American Way are included in this report. The incident, initiator, and resolution of activities are covered in each example. An alphabetical list of challenged materials concludes the report. (THC)

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Attacks on the Freedom to Learn:

A 1984–1985 Report

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People For The American Way

During the 1984-85 school year, America's censors took aim at the public school curriculum. Their targets: an array of courses, textbooks, teaching methods and materials, as well as a wide assortment of books, plays, and films. In the past school year, there were documented censorship incidents in 46 of the 50 states.* More than 42 percent of the challenges that were directed at instructional materials resulted in removal or restriction of the material.

According to "Attacks on the Freedom to Learn 1984-85," the third annual censorship study issued by PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY:

- There was a dramatic increase in censorship activity during the past school year: The number of incidents documented in 1984-85 was an increase of 66.6 percent over incidents reported in PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY'S 1982-83 study, and a 37.7 percent increase over incidents reported in the 1983-84 study.
- Almost one-fourth of the censorship incidents reported in 1984-85 were initiated by local organized pressure groups that are aligned with the national Far Right censorship network;
- Almost half of the incidents reported were challenges to public school courses and the curriculum;

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* The list of incidents documented by this report is not inclusive, but only a sampling of the kinds of attacks on the freedom to learn that occurred during the past school year. The four states not reporting censorship incidents during 1984-85 were New Hampshire, South Dakota, Vermont and Hawaii.

°Complaints in more than one-fourth of the incidents focused on charges of "secular humanism" or alleged violations of the Hatch Amendment.

THE CENSORS AND THEIR TARGETS

The most frequently objected to titles during the 1984-85 school year were Deenie, Blubber, Tiger Eyes, and Then Again, Maybe I Won't, all by Judy Blume, J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye, Robert Cormier's The Chocolate War, John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men and the Franco Zeffirelli film "Romeo and Juliet." Other challenged titles include The Diary of Anne Frank, "An Enemy of the People," Sports Illustrated, Huckleberry Finn, To Kill a Mockingbird, Our Bodies, Ourselves, I Am the Cheese and two Disney films, "A Christmas Story" and "Never Cry Wolf."

Just as PEOPLE FOR's two previous censorship reports have confirmed, this year's study documents that the overwhelming majority of challenges were initiated by organizations and individuals whose education agendas mesh with those of Far Right organizations such as Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum, Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, the national Pro-Family Forum, and Mel and Norma Gabler's Educational Research Analysts.

Almost one fourth (24.1 percent) of the censorship incidents reported during the past school year were initiated by organized censorship groups that are aligned with those organizations. Less than 12 percent of reported censorship activity was sparked by school personnel. Approximately 65 percent of 1984-85 censorship attempts were led by other sources--legislators, preachers and individual parents. The majority of complaints lodged by this latter group closely parallel objections consistently raised by Far Right censorship groups.

There were scattered attempts to remove materials that some considered "sexist" or "racist." In Berkeley, California, for example, the school board rejected a Latin American history textbook because, according to one board member, it was "anti-Soviet." In Sioux City, Iowa, a fourth grade history text was rejected because it was "offensive to American Indians." In Kansas, To Kill a Mockingbird was challenged because it is "offensive to blacks." (In Missouri, the same book came under fire because of its "exploration of bigotry and prejudice.") In Tennessee, Huckleberry Finn was objected to because of "racial slurs."

More than one-fourth (26.3 percent) of the incidents reported in the study were sparked by allegations that instructional materials or course content contained elements of "secular humanism" or were in violation of the Hatch Amendment. Courses, books, and other instructional materials that deal with evolution, sex education, values education, the use of personal diaries, questionnaires, role playing, group discussions, and textbooks that reflect social, political, or cultural change were frequent targets for either or both complaints.

CENSORSHIP AND THE LAW OF THE LAND

In the past year, the Far Right's campaign against the public schools was aided by the passage of two new federal tools. In 1984, "secular humanism," the Far Right's codeword for whatever it finds objectionable, was enshrined in federal law. A prohibition now exists which forbids the use of magnet school funds for "courses of instruction the substance of which is secular humanism." Also in 1984: The scope of the original "Pupil Rights Protection Act," the so-called Hatch Amendment, was expanded by the regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

The new regulations go beyond the intent of the original legislation which requires that parental consent be obtained for psychiatric and psychological tests before they are administered to children. The regulations are so broad and so vague that they are being used as a basis for assaults at the local level on classroom discussion, curriculum and school activities, which could be construed as comprising a "psychological or psychiatric test." Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum and other right wing activists lobbied aggressively for the new and expanded regulations.

Not content with the new federal weapons in their arsenal, Far Right activists during the past year h[illegible] comparable state legislation. In the March issue of the Eagle Forum newsletter, Schlafly urged her followers: "It is essential for state legislatures to pass a Pupil Rights Protection Act in every state to govern the psychological classroom methods conducted with state and local funds."

During the 1984-85 school year, lawmakers in at least eight states followed Schlafly's advice: "Baby Hatch Amendments" were introduced in Arizona, California, Delaware, North Dakota, South Carolina, Florida, Illinois, and North Carolina.

THE ATTACK ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

During the past school year, censorship activity aimed squarely at the public school curriculum was reported in 30 states. No longer content to remove "dirty" books from reading lists or "trash" from library shelves, Far Right censors sought to purge public education of courses, books, instructional materials, and ideas that conflict with their views of the world as well as their brand of religion.

- In Arkansas, a review committee was formed to examine all textbooks and library materials for "objectionable content."
- In Maine, a "Tolerance Day" program was cancelled because of the inclusion of a homosexual.
- In California, a lawsuit was filed seeking an injunction against a drug prevention program. The program, which promotes self esteem and respect for others, was objected to because its critics contend that it promotes "immorality, the breakdown of traditional family values, and secular humanism."
- In North Carolina, a parents group has begun to monitor area schools "to stop teachings on sex, drugs, and death that do not have a moral framework."
- In Georgia, complaints that a drug abuse program promotes "secular humanism" prompted a school superintendent to issue a memorandum to teachers prohibiting instruction about homosexuality and abortion and restricting classroom discussion of evolution, witchcraft, religion, values, and personal inquiries to only that contained in "approved textbooks."

THE OLD STANDBYS

Although the majority of censorship incidents reported in the 1984-85 study were directed at the school curriculum, familiar targets of the censors also appear in this year's report. One of the most frequent titles on censors' hit lists for three decades, The Catcher in the Rye, was again called "the dirtiest book ever written." Young adult books by Judy Blume, favorite targets of the censors, were labelled "obscene," "sexually intimate," "inappropriate," "subtle," and "filthy."

The Diary of Anne Frank was objected to because of "sexuality," and A Wrinkle in Time, the winner of the 1963 Newberry Medal, was challenged because it "opposes Christian beliefs and teaches occult practices." Of Mice and Men was challenged because of "inappropriateness" and "profanity." Two Walt Disney films--"A Christmas Story" and "Never Cry Wolf"--were objected to because of scenes depicting the "occult" and "nudity."

The Franco Zeffirelli film "Romeo and Juliet" was challenged--and in one instance, edited--because of "nudity."

SECRET CENSORSHIP

Deromanticizing "Romeo and Juliet" was a favorite pastime of publishers as well. During the past school year, it was discovered that every publisher of high school literature anthologies had "edited" approximately 400 lines from the world's most famous love story.

There were other incidents of secret censorship that occurred during the past school year: After objections to a library book on homosexuality, a librarian in Fairbanks discovered that every card referring to homosexuality in the card catalogue and every book on the topic had disappeared from the library. In a California library, after objections from a citizens' group to the sex education book Show Me -- and after the decision was made to retain the book--the book was reported lost and never returned.

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To assist parents, teachers, school officials and community leaders prevent or solve censorship controversies, PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY has published a 125-page citizen action guide--PROTECTING THE FREEDOM TO LEARN. The guide is available for $9.50 per copy; bulk rates are available on request. The PEOPLE FOR book, currently in use in schools and communities across the nation, contains an overview of censorship activity in America, an explanation of and samples of materials distributed by the national Far Right censorship network, suggestions for community organizing to prevent and/or solve organized censorship efforts and model selection and reconsideration policies.

Another PEOPLE FOR publication that will be of interest to those concerned with textbook quality and censorship efforts is The Consumer's Guide to Biology Textbooks, 1985. The Guide, which contains comprehensive, scholarly reviews of 18 biology texts published in 1984-85, grades each text and provides a comprehensive checklist for rating the reviewed texts as well as other science books. The Guide, which was prepared by two eminent biologists, also features a detailed 18-page discussion and refutation of "creationism." Copies of the Guide are available from PEOPLE FOR's Washington office at $5 per copy. Bulk rates available.

Sampling of
ATTACKS ON THE FREEDOM TO LEARN
1984 - 1985

The list of censorship incidents included here is not inclusive, but rather a sampling of the kinds of censorship activities that occurred during 1984-85. Only those incidents that were reported and subsequently documented by PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY were included in this report.

ALABAMA

Incident: Objections to statewide adoption of health and home economic textbooks because of "inappropriateness" due to "philosophical biases," "writers' manipulation of value judgements," "invasion of student privacy," and "undermining of traditional family values."

Initiator: Members of Eagle Forum

*** Resolution: The State Textbook Committee and the State Board of Education rejected 11 of the proposed texts.

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Incident: A 1985 survey of public and school libraries by the Alabama Civil Liberties Union reported that 37% of the respondents experienced censorship attempts. Challenged material included books by Judy Blume, Alice Childress, and Stephen King, John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men, John Updike's Witches of Eastwick, William Faulkner's As I Lay Dying, Herman Raucher's Summer of '42, Paul Zindel's My Darling, My Hamburger, and Our Bodies, Ourselves. Of the ten books most banned nationally, eight were among those reportedly challenged in Alabama. The survey found that many of the challenged books were returned to the shelves; in many cases, however, books were either restricted or made totally unavailable to students or the public, solely in response to demands of a few individuals.

ALASKA

*** Incident: Following objections last year to the homosexual content of Francis Hanckel and John Cunningham's book A Way of Love, A Way of Life: A Young Person's Introduction to What It Means to be Gay at the Fairbanks North Star Junior-Senior High School, the librarian recently discovered that every card in the card catalog referring to

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*** Indicates that challenged material was either removed or restricted in this state.

homosexuality and every book on the subject were missing from the library.

Resolution: The books have been reordered.

ARKANSAS

Incident: A five-member review committee was established to examine all textbooks and library materials used in the Concord School District for "objectionable content."

Initiator: Concord School Board

Resolution: Committee recommended establishing a committee to screen library material, under guidelines provided by State Education Department; separating classes according to gender when sex education is discussed; and placing Facts About Sex: A Basic Guide and Single and Pregnant in a parents only section of the school library because they are "inappropriate for adolescents," contain "vulgar language" and "have little to say that would discourage premarital sex." Board voted to implement the first suggestion while setting aside the other recommendations until a later date.

ARIZONA

Incident: A "Pupil Right Protection Act," similar to the federal Hatch Amendment was passed by the Arizona legislature. The bill stated that "no instruction in a common school or a high school may include administration of any test containing any questions about pupils' or their parents' personal beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion."

Initiator: Rep. James Cooper (R- Mesa), chairman of the House Education Committee, sponsored the bill, which was aggressively lobbied for by the Eagle Forum.

Resolution: Arizona Governor Bruce E. Babbitt vetoed the bill saying that the legislation was "an effort to usurp control of local school districts."

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Incident: Objections to Robert Cormier's The Chocolate War in Lake Havasu City's high school English classes, charging that use of the book by teachers "fails to set good examples for students, fosters disrespect in the classroom and fails to support the board." Removal urged.

Initiator: School board members

*** Resolution: The school board voted to ban the novel from high school English classes.

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Incident: A bill that would require evolution to be taught as "theory" in the state's schools was introduced in the state legislature.

Initiator: Rep. James Cooper (R - Mesa)
Resolution: Proposed bill passed in the House and failed 4-2 in the Senate Education Committee.

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Incident: Proposed 6-12 grade science curriculum in Prescott's Mayer School District, which would include the theory of creationism.
Initiator: School district governing board and administration
Resolution: School board decided against adopting curriculum due to anticipated trouble.

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Incident: Objections to materials and discussions in social studies and counselling programs in the Tucson Unified School District due to the "teaching of values clarification" and the promotion of "secular humanism."
Initiator: Parents
Resolution: The situation is ongoing and no action has been taken to restrict the curriculum or activities.

CALIFORNIA

Incident: Objections to sex education book Show Me near Modesto in the Stanislaus County Public Library.
Initiator: Turlock Action Committee, a local citizens' group
*** Resolution: The County Supervisors voted to retain the book. Two weeks later the book was reported lost by borrower and was not returned.

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Incident: Objections to a sixth-grade textbook, "Revolution in Central America" (published by Franklin Watts Inc.), in Berkeley public schools because of the political tone of the book, which one school board member labelled "anti-Soviet." Experts called the book an "even-handed" addition to the school district's Latin American history course.
Initiator: School board members
*** Resolution: School board decided to drop the textbook from consideration for adoption.

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Incident: After objections last year to Alice Walker's 1983 Pulitzer Prize-winning book The Color Purple in Oakland's Far West High School honors English class, a review panel comprised of educators and professors was established. The panel endorsed use of the book; their decision was then appealed to the school board.
Initiator: Parent
Resolution: The school board voted 4-2 in favor of retaining the book in the school district.

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Incident: Objections to proposed revisions to expand and update a K-12 Family Life curriculum, and to a

grade 2-6 drug prevention program entitled Project Self Esteem, in Capistrano Valley's Unified School District because they promote "immorality, the breakdown of traditional family values and secular humanism."

Initiator: Citizens for Family Strength and Capistrano Parents' Committee for Academic Freedom, parents' groups

Resolution: A district task force submitted recommendations for Family Life curriculum revision; the school board then approved watered-down revisions for pilot programs throughout the district. A suit has been filed to seek an injunction against implementation of Project Self Esteem and is now pending in Superior Court.

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Incident: Proposed legislation has been introduced that would add the term "political" to an existing state law that prohibits schools from offering tests, questionnaires, surveys, or examinations that contain questions about pupils' or their families' personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, and religion without prior written parental permission.

Initiator: Assemblywoman Doris Allen (R - Los Angeles) and instigated by members of the Eagle Forum

Resolution: Ms. Allen says that Eagle Forum members "will begin actively lobbying for the measure during the 1986 session of the California Assembly."

COLORADO

Incident: Objections to Frank Dickens' Albert Herbert Hawkins - The Naughtiest Boy in the World and Albert Herbert Hawkins and the Space Rocket in Douglas County's elementary school libraries because "they advocate defiance of adult authority and misbehavior for which the protagonist goes unpunished."

Initiator: Parents

*** Resolution: A citizen's advisory panel decided the books lacked literary merit; the Douglas County Board of Education then voted 4-2 to move the books to the adult shelves of the library.

CONNECTICUT

Incident: Objections to Manchester's mandatory 8th grade health education course, "Focus on Wellness," because it "violates parents' rights to teach their children sensitive issues such as sex, birth control, suicide and abortion" and allegedly violates the Hatch Amendment.

Initiator: Concerned Citizens of Manchester, a local citizens' group

Resolution: The school board has removed some filmstrips and material used in the curriculum; the board also established a citizens' panel to evaluate the course.

DELAWARE

A 1983-1984 survey of 187 public, academic and school libraries reported the following among the challenged material: J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye ("dirtiest book ever written"), The Diary of Anne Frank ("sexuality"), records by Randy Newman and anti-nuclear war pamphlets. One record, "Live From New York" by Gilda Radner, was reported destroyed by parents. (Complete results are in the process of final tabulation.)

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Incident: The "Protection of Students' Privacy in Examination, Testing, or Treatment" bill -- a state version of the Hatch Amendment -- was introduced in the Delaware legislature on March 21, 1985.

Initiator: Representative Richard F. Davis (R - Newark)

Resolution: Rep. Davis says that if the bill doesn't get through this year, "it will still be around next year."

FLORIDA

Incident: Objections to Playboy magazine at Broward County's Main Library due to "pornography and obscenity." Removal urged although formal written complaint was never filed.

Initiator: Televangelist James Kennedy and other community members

Resolution: Library board voted to retain magazine.

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Incident: Objections to health textbook, Let's Talk About Health, in West Palm Beach County school district because of the teaching of "values clarification" and the promotion of "secular humanism."

Initiator: School board member and parent

Resolution: Textbook review committee and county school board have allowed the textbook to remain in the curriculum.

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Incident: Objections to a book and film strip based on Madeleine L'Engle's 1963 Newberry Medal award-winning novel A Wrinkle in Time in the 4th grade class near Lakeland at Polk City Elementary school because it "opposes Christian beliefs and teaches occult practices." Removal urged.

Initiator: Parents
Resolution: Principal decided against removing the filmstrip; a county-wide curriculum review committee has been established.

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Incident: Objections to J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye in Walton County's Freeport High School English classes due to the book's "treatment of religion and the salty language." Removal urged.

Initiator: Parents, ministers and students
*** Resolution: School board voted 5-0 to remove the book.

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Incident: Objections to six books that deal with ghosts, witches and related topics at Lakeland's Sikes Elementary School media center because the material would "lead children to believe ideas contrary to the Bible's teachings." The books included: Halloween by Ron Reese, Possible Impossibilities by Elizabeth Hall, and Meet the Vampire by Georgess McHargue. Removal urged.

Initiator: Parents
Resolution: A five-member review committee voted 4-1 to retain the books.

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Incident: A state version of the Hatch Amendment was introduced in the Florida legislature. The bill required that instructional materials used in conjunction with research or experimentation programs be made available for parental inspection.

Initiator: Representative Thomas Tobiason (D - Gonzalez), at the request of Women for Responsible Legislation -- a group that is aligned with the Eagle Forum.

Resolution: The bill died in the House Education Committee.

GEORGIA

Incident: Objection to drug abuse program in Pine Mountain Middle School in Cobb County, Georgia, due to alleged promotion of "secular humanism."

Initiator: Parent
*** Resolution: School superintendent sent memo to district teachers reiterating school district policy which prohibits instruction in homosexuality and abortion. Discussion of evolution, religion, witchcraft and supernatural, values clarification and personal inquiries is limited to coverage in approved textbooks. Any supplemental materials must be reviewed and approved by school administration.

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Incident: Objections to Judy Blume's Deenie in Gwinnett County's Beaver Ridge Elementary School library

because it is "obscene." Removal urged.

Initator: Parent

*** Resolution: The school's media committee unanimously voted to ban the book because the committee members thought it was "inappropriate."

HAWAII

During the past school year, there were no censorship incidents reported in Hawaii.

IDAHO

Incident: Proposed House resolution urging the state textbook review committee to approve books that promote traditional American values.

Initiator: Rep. Liz Allen (R - Nampa)

Resolution: House Education Committee voted 9-8 against the resolution.

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Incident: A bill was introduced in the Idaho legislature to allow school districts in the state to revoke the teaching certificates of those who refused to teach the theory of creationism along with evolution.

Initiator: Rep. Preston Brimhall (R- Idaho Falls)

Resolution: House Education Committee voted 9-8 to defeat the proposed bill.

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Incident: Objections to John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men and J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye on supplemental reading list at Nampa High School, near Boise, because of "inappropriateness."

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: Principal refused to remove the book and the school board voted to uphold his decision.

ILLINOIS

Incident: Objections to three Judy Blume books, Then Again Maybe I Won't, Deenie, and Blubber, in Peoria School District's elementary school libraries due to their "sexual content," "strong language," and "lack of social or literary value."

Initiator: Parents

*** Resolution: Two committees of school personnel recommended removal; school board returned books to elementary library shelves, limiting access to older students or students with parental consent.

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Incident: Objections to instructional material on the Vietnam war, used as part of a humanities class discussion on the 1960's, in Mazon-Verona-

Kinsman High School due to "vulgar language."

Initiator: Parents

*** Resolution: Teacher voluntarily removed material; a review committee, comprised of English Department faculty, the principal and the superintendent, was established to approve future use of instructional material.

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Incident: Proposed pupil rights legislation, similar to the Hatch Amendment, was introduced in the Illinois legislature.

Initiator: Representative Richard Mulcahey (D - Durand), chairman of the House Elementary-Secondary Education Committee, and chairman of a local Eagle Forum chapter.

Resolution: The bill was defeated in the House Education Committee.

INDIANA

Incident: Objections to Judy Blume's Tiger Eyes in Salem School District's Daleville Elementary School Library because the "theme and language of the book was inappropriate for 4th graders." Removal urged.

Initiator: Parents

Resolution: The school board withdrew the book until a faculty committee reviewed it. The committee failed to find the book "objectionable" and the school board returned the book to the shelf.

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Incident: Objections to the film EXERCISE IN PHYSICAL FITNESS, which describes yoga as a form of exercise, at Warrick's Boonville Junior High School because it encourages "spiritual awareness" of the Hindu religion and allegedly violates the Hatch Amendment.

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: After viewing the film, the school board decided against removing the film from the school's film list.

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Incident: Complaint filed against Tabor Evans' Longarm in Virginia City in the Allen County Public Library, near Ft. Wayne, due to "objectionable material" and "graphic sexual language."

Initiator: Library patron, a member of Citizens for Decency through Law

Resolution: Library committee voted to retain the book.

IOWA

Incident: Objections to 4th grade history textbook, Sioux City Past and Present, in Sioux City schools because it is "offensive" to American Indians

and almost totally disregards minority groups.

Initiator: School district's Educational Equity Coordinator and members of the American Indian community

*** Resolution: School board voted to remove the textbook until a new version is produced which will present a more positive image of American Indians. A "reconsideration committee" of educators and Indians has been appointed to rewrite or revise the text.

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Incident: Objections to Judy Blume's Forever in the Cedar Rapids Public Library's young adult section because it is too "sexually intimate."

Initiator: Principal of Cedar Rapids Christian School

Resolution: A review committee comprised of library officials and citizens voted to retain the book in the young adult section. Library board then voted to keep the book.

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Incident: Objections to the films ROMEO AND JULIET, Walt Disney's A CHRISTMAS STORY and a horror movie WATCHER IN THE WOODS in the Bettendorf school system because of "nudity," "the occult," and "swear words."

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: The school board adopted a new selection policy for movies, books and other materials.

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Incident: Objections to David Guy's Football Dreams in six of Des Moines 11 middle school libraries due to "liberal use of profanity," and "lack of literary merit." Removal urged.

Initiator: Chairman of the Textbook Reconsideration Committee and local minister

Resolution: District Textbook Reconsideration Committee recommended keeping book on shelves; superintendent then restricted book to high school library shelves. School board then voted to remove the restriction and returned book to the junior high school.

KANSAS

Incident: Objections to a series of articles on sex-education and birth control published in Fort Scott High School's newspaper, The Tiger Times.

Initiator: Petition signed by 490 community and school members

Resolution: School board chose to take no disciplinary action against the teacher or the students, arguing that the newspaper is protected by the 1st and 14th amendments.

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Incident: Objections to Harper Lee's Pulitzer-Prize winning novel To Kill A Mockingbird in Park

Hill School District because it is "offensive to blacks." Removal from required reading list urged.

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: School board voted 4-0 to uphold recommendation of a review committee to keep the book.

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Incident: Objections to Elizabeth Harlan's Footfalls in the Seaman school district's Logan Junior High School library because "the sexual passages are too graphic." Removal urged.

Initiator: Parents

Resolution: Board of Education returned the book to the library shelves.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky adopts textbooks on a statewide basis; one book adopted for high school use is Scott, Foresman's Life Science (1983) which is one of the three books that fails to mention the word evolution - as documented in People For's Consumer's Guide to Biology Books, 1985.

LOUISIANA

Incident: Objections to statewide adoption of eight home economic textbooks which allegedly teach sex education and promote "immoral views of sex." Violations of state curriculum laws, which allow sex education instruction only in designated sex education courses and allow parents an opportunity to remove their children from the course, have been alleged.

Initiator: Members of Eagle Forum

Resolution: Textbook committee rejected all eight books; state board of elementary and secondary education approved seven of the eight books.

MAINE

Incident: Objections to a homosexual participating in a "Tolerance Day" program, designed to help students in Kennebec's Madison High School broaden their understanding of human lifestyles, because of "exposure to too many ideas on homosexuality."

Initiator: Kennebec Valley Grange, a local farmers group

*** Resolution: The school board unanimously voted to cancel the event. A restraining order was denied by the county judge and the state's chief justice.

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Incident: Objections to use of a supplemental short story, The Devil Comes to Church at Lewiston's Martel Elementary School because "a short story dealing with the devil is inappropriate."

Initiator: Parent

*** Resolution: Superintendent ordered story removed from the classroom.

MARYLAND

*** Incident: Books by Philip Roth, John Hersey and Tom Wolfe along with numerous record albums were burned in a public bonfire at Cornerstone Assembly of God Church in Bowie.

Initiator: The Peters Brothers and 150 participants

MASSACHUSETTS

Incident: Complaint filed against S. Eric Meretzky's Zork: The Malifestro Quest at book fair at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District's Baker Elementary School because it contained "excessive violence," and promotes "demonic worship."

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: A six member parent-school review committee recommended that the book be retained.

MICHIGAN

Incident: Objections to a lecture by a sex educator to the students at Ottawa County's Jenison High School, outside Grand Rapids, due to his "humanistic philosophy."

Initiator: Parents

Resolution: The school administration cancelled the program; a group of parents then banded together to support the address by the speaker. The board of education then approved the appearance of the speaker.

MINNESOTA

Incident: Objections to pictures in "bathing suit" issue of Sports Illustrated magazine in Danube's public schools, near Redwood Falls.

*** Initiator: School superintendent removed the issue from the shelves of the district school libraries.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi adopts textbooks on a statewide basis; one book adopted for 9th grade use is McDougal, Littell and Company's Literature (1983) which has deleted various lines and passages from its version of William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet."

MISSOURI

Incident: Objections to mock elections, state mandated 5th grade sex education, personal journals, and the films ROMEO AND JULIET and Walt Disney's NEVER CRY WOLF in the Hillsboro School District, outside St. Louis, due to alleged violations of Hatch Amendment

Initiator: Parents, a school board member, Phyllis Schlafly and members of her organization, the Eagle Forum

Resolution: School board was legally advised that the Hatch Amendment did not apply and they therefore took no action. School board member later lost re-election bid and filed suit in Jefferson County Circuit Court against school board president to obtain ruling that curriculum violates state Hatch regulations.

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Incident: Objections to Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, To Kill A Mockingbird, in Park Hill North Junior High School because it "explores bigotry and prejudice." Removal urged.

Initiator: Parents who have requested removal of the book on two previous occasions

Resolution: The school board voted to retain the book.

MONTANA

Incident: Objections to a sex education, substance abuse program, funded by the Montana Highway Traffic Safety Council, in Glendive's Junior and Senior high school health and family living classes because the materials "teach values clarification and secular humanism" and allegedly violates the Hatch Amendment.

Initiator: The Eagle Forum and Concerned Parents for Children, a parents' group

Resolution: The situation is ongoing but no action has been taken to restict the program.

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Incident: Objections to six Judy Blume books, Blubber, Deenie, Are You There God, It's Me, Margaret, Superfudge, Then Again Maybe I Won't, and Starring Sally J. Freedman As Herself, in all Bozeman public school libraries because they show "disrespect toward parents and adults, preoccupation with sex, dishonesty, bad language and bad manners."

Initiator: Members of the Eagle Forum and Citzens for Decency

Resolution: A committee of parents and school personnel unanimously recommended that all six books remain on the shelves; the Bozeman School Board voted 8-0 to keep the books.

NEBRASKA

Incident: Objections to topics in a unit on motivation and emotion in a psychology class at Lincoln's East High School because it "promotes homosexuality."

Initiator: Parents, many without children in the class

Resolution: A Due Process Committee, comprised of teachers, administration, parents and students, voted to keep the unit since it was within curriculum guidelines. The school board has failed to take any action.

NEVADA

Nevada adopts textbooks on a statewide basis; one book adopted for high school use is Silver, Burdett's Biology for Living (1985) which is one of the three books that fails to mention the word evolution - as documented in People For's Consumer's Guide to Biology Books, 1985.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

During the past school year, there were no censorship incidents reported from New Hampshire.

NEW JERSEY

Incident: Objections to Harry Mazer's The Last Mission in Pequannock Valley School library due to "obscene language in dialogue."

Initiator: Parents

Resolution: School board twice voted to retain book; parents then took matter to state department of education. Book will remain on the shelf and parents will be allowed to restrict their child's access to specific books through a written request.

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Incident: Objections to teaching of "values clarification" in a state mandated 7th and 8th grade Family Life Education course which deals with drug abuse, reproduction, contraception, smoking and alcoholism.

Initiator: Coalition of Concerned Parents, a statewide parent's group

Resolution: School policy was adopted to permit parents to remove their children from the offending classes.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico adopts textbooks on a statewide basis; three books adopted for high school use are Scott, Foresman's Arrangement in Literature (1982) and Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich's Adventures in Reading, Heritage Edition (1979) both of which contain bowdlerized versions of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"; over 400 lines have been deleted from the play.

NEW YORK

Incident: Objections to extracurricular reading material for freshmen at Cornwall High School. Robert Cormier's The Chocolate War and I Am The Cheese were objected to as "humanistic," "destroying religious and moral beliefs and national spirit."

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: Comments and discussion were heard by board of education; no action was taken.

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Incident: Objections to Effective Parenting Information for Children (EPIC), a K-6 curriculum designed to incorporate responsible decision-making/ problem solving skills into the course work at 20 schools in Buffalo and surrounding communities, because of the teaching of "values clarification" and the promotion of "secular humanism."

Initiator: Concerned Parents and Taxpayers of Western New York

Resolution: Adoption of EPIC was prevented in the Grand Island School District but it was not removed from any school district where it was already in place.

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Incident: Objections to Stephen King's novel Cujo in Bradford's high school libraries because it is "unsuitable" reading.

Initiator: Parents

*** Resolution: The Bradford School Board voted to remove the book from the library shelves and to establish a citizen, teacher and school librarian committee to review materials in the school library.

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Incident: Objections to the film ROMEO AND JULIET due to "partially nude" characters and the film and book version of Ken Kesey's One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest due to "profanity" in English classes at Troy High School.

Initiator: Parents

*** Resolution: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (book and film) was pulled from the curriculum while a scene from ROMEO AND JULIET was edited. The school administration is in the process of developing a review procedure of curriculum materials.

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Incident: Objections to Robert Cormier's The Chocolate War on 9th grade reading list at Schenectady's Linton High School due to "salty language" and the fact that it is "demeaning of parenthood and family life."

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: No action has been taken to remove or restrict access to the book.

NORTH CAROLINA

Incident: A parent group,"concerned about traditional values and morality," has begun to monitor public schools in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area in an attempt to "stop teachings on sex, drugs, and death that do not have a moral framework."

Initiator: Concerned Charlotteans, a citizens' group

Resolution: The group is continuing its review of sex education curriculum materials and guides; no recommendations have been made to the board.

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Incident: Objections to sex education instruction in biology classes at Buncombe County's Enka High School due to "one-sided instruction" without presentation of a "traditional, pro-family point of view."

Initiator: Parents and Carl Horn, president of the North Carolina Policy Council, an ultraconservative group critical of public education

Resolution: The school administration has proposed a county-wide 9-12 health curriculum. (To be decided late August)

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Incident: Objections to unit on "values clarification" in the gifted student program in Carteret County Public Schools due to the teaching of "secular humanism."

Initiator: Parents

Resolution: Board of education has stated support for the program and is in the process of revising the curriculum for that unit.

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Incident: "Parents Learn of Student Research" -- HB 117 -- was introduced in the North Carolina legislature. The bill -- a state version of the Hatch Amendment -- is designed to ensure student privacy in exams, testing and treatment.

Initiator: Representative Frank Rhodes (R - Forsyth)

Resolution: Pending before the House Education Committee.

NORTH DAKOTA

Incident: A state version of the Hatch Amendment was introduced in the North Dakota legislature.
Initiator: Senator Pete Maaden (R - Braddock)
Resolution: The bill was given a "no-pass" vote by the Senate Education Committee and defeated by a vote of 37 to 15 on the Senate floor. The bill has since been referred to a study committee, which Sen. Maaden hopes will "clarify a lot of misconceptions [about the bill]."

OHIO

Incident: Objections to questionnaire, part of a state designed drug and alcohol abuse program at Gallipolis' Gallia Academy High School, because it promotes "secular humanism" and allegedly violates the Hatch Amendment.
Initiator: Parent
*** Resolution: The school board cancelled a follow-up questionnaire to avoid further controversy, but retained the program.

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Incident: Objections to performance of "Sorcerers and Friends" by third graders at Bethel-Tate's Ebon C. Hill Elementary School due to the presence of "sorcerers and witches," and "satirical song lyrics."
Initiator: Parents
*** Resolution: The board of education ended practice for the production; decision was appealed to U.S. District Court which ruled that rehearsals before and after school could not be prohibited. The board of education then banned the play's songs from school music classes.

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Incident: Objections to proposed adoption of K-12 health curriculum in the Springfield City School District due to teaching of "secular humanism" and "values clarification."
Initiator: Concerned Women for America
Resolution: School board adopted the curriculum.

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Incident: Objections to a high school production of the play, "Voices From the High School," due to the dialogue which "uses the Lord's name in vain,"; a 5th-grade game, "Pioneers," because it uses role-playing; and a newly adopted K-12 reading program which teaches "secular humanism" in the Findlay School District.
Initiator: School board member
Resolution: The school board has not acted on any of the objections raised.

OKLAHOMA

Incident: Objections to J.D. Landis' book The Sisters Impossible, twice nominated for the Sequoyah Award, in Sallisaw's public school media center due to "improper language and subject matter."

Initiator: Parents

*** Resolution: A teacher review committee recommended keeping the book on the shelf; the board of education voted to remove the book. (Concerned Citizens and Parents of Children's Rights is circulating a petition to revoke the ban.)

OREGON

Incident: Objections to a book on Plains Indian culture, Seven Arrows by Hyemeyohsts Storm, at Creswell High School because it contains references to masturbation, rape and mother-son incest.

Initiator: A parent/citizen curriculum committee

Resolution: The school board has failed to decide whether or not the book should be used.

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Incident: Objection to Playboy magazine in Coos Bay Public Library because "it shows obscene, sexual acts, as well as sadomasochistic acts." Removal urged.

Initiator: People Opposed to Pornography, a citizens' group

Resolution: Library board unanimously voted to retain the magazine.

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Incident: Objections to questionnaires circulated in 7th grade home economics class at Lebanon's Middle School because they "pry into family lifestyles" and allegedly violates the Hatch Amendment.

Initiator: Parents

Resolution: Superintendent pulled questionnaire from curriculum to avoid further controversy.

PENNSYLVANIA

Incident: Objections to textbooks, The Human Story: Facts on Birth, Growth and Reproduction, and Understanding Your Health, for proposed human sexuality curriculum in State College Area school district's elementary-secondary schools because of coverage of "controversial subject areas such as homosexuality, abortion and birth control."

Initiator: Parents

Resolution: School board adopted the curriculum.

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Incident: Objections to Judy Blume's Deenie, Blubber, Tiger Eyes, It's Not the End of the World and Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself and Norma Klein's Honey of a Chimp in Hanover Public School District because they are "indecent and inappropriate" for elementary school students.

Initiator: Parent

*** Resolution: School board voted to make books accessible to students only with written parental consent.

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Incident: Objections to 10th grade health textbook, Understanding Your Sexuality, in Chambersburg Area Senior High School because it teaches "immorality."

Initiator: Chambersburg Area Taxpayers Association, a group opposed to sex education

Resolution: School board members and district superintendent support the book and refuse to remove it.

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Incident: Objections to Robert Lehrman's Juggling at annual book fair at Uwchian Hills Elementary School due to "graphic descriptions of incidents of teenage sexual activity."

Initiator: Parent and school principal

Resolution: A parent and faculty committee will be appointed to review all material that will be offered at next year's book fair.

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Incident: Objections to 10th grade health textbook, Adolescents Today, in Norwin Senior High School because the book is "humanistic, anti-family and amoral." Removal urged.

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: School board voted to keep book after district's Secondary Advisory Committee reviewed the book and recommended keeping it.

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Incident: Objections to books in the Stroudsburg High School library because the works contain "graphic and obscene" passages. Books included Irwin Shaw's Beggar Man, Thief and Nightwork, Judith Krantz's Mistral's Daughter, Jean M. Auel's Valley of the Horses, Robert Cormier's The Chocolate War, and Richard Kluger's Star Witness.

*** Initiator: The superintendent, principal and other school officials ordered the review and removal of 15 books they felt were inappropriate for the shelves.

RHODE ISLAND

Incident: Objections to a bikini-clad woman on the cover of Metrication, American Style, a supplemental booklet on the metric system, in Warwick's Toll Gate High School because it "discriminates against women and is sexist."

Initiator: Parent

*** Resolution: School superintendent removed the booklet from the classroom.

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Incident: Objections to Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" and Henrick Ibsen's play "An Enemy of the People" in a 10th grade English class at Coventry High School due to "violent subject matter" and "language content."

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: While the materials were allowed to remain in the class, the superintendent drafted a complaint procedure for parents to follow if they object to books in the future.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Incident: Objections to 7th grade sex-education textbook, Finding My Way, in Greenwood School District because "terms in the book and the glossary offend the moral values of the community" and promote "secular humanism." Removal urged.

Initiator: Members of Pro-Family Forum

*** Resolution: The board of trustees for the school district unanimously voted to remove the textbook, even though a committee of teachers and education officials recommended that the text be retained.

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Incident: A state version of the Hatch Amendment was introduced in the South Carolina legislature; the bill, according to its sponsor, would "conform this state's education laws to the purposes and objectives" of the federal Hatch statute.

Initiator: Representative Benjamin Thraikill (R-Horry County)

Resolution: No action was taken before the legislature adjourned; Rep. Thraikill vows that the bill will be reintroduced in January 1986.

SOUTH DAKOTA

During the past school year, there were no censorship incidents reported in South Dakota.

TENNESSEE

In December 1984 the Southern Regional American Civil Liberties Union conducted a censorship survey of regional public schools and libraries. The following information was reported in Tennessee: the overwhelming majority of resource material challenged in both libraries and schools were books. Titles included: The Diary of Anne Frank, J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye, John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men, Mark Twain's Huckleberry

Finn, The History of Witchcraft, Judy Blume's Blubber, Norman Mailer's Ancient Evenings, and Our Bodies, Our Selves. Many school librarians reported challenges to Sports Illustrated's swimsuit edition. "Morality," "obscenity," and "profanity" were cited most often as the reasons material was challenged. The final resolution of the challenges found that the majority (87%) of the libraries retained the material, while schools either retained (47.8%) or removed (37%) the challenged material.

TEXAS

Incident: Objection to Todd Strasser's Friends Till the End in Arlington Independent School District's Nichols Junior High School library because it contains "sexually descriptive words." The book has received several prestigious awards including the American Library Association's "Best Book for Young Adults." Removal urged.

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: Three separate rulings from the superintendent and an Ad-Hoc Textbook Review Committee upheld the book. Arlington Public School Board members then voted unanimously to keep the book.

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Incident: Objections to The Valley of Horses by Jean M. Auel in Bastrop County library because of "objectionable" material throughout the book.

Initiator: A parent and members of Bastrop County Citizens for Morality

Resolution: For every complaint filed against the book the Library Board must review the form. One ruling on three separate complaints kept the book; another ruling on five complaints again kept the book in the library.

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Incident: Objections to illustrations of sexual organs and the reproduction process in Holt, Rinehart and Winston's Biology textbook in Garland Independent School District(GISD) because they are "overly explicit" and "dangerous."

Initiator: Parent

*** Resolution: The book was recommended for adoption by the GISD's Central Textbook Selection Committee; the Committee then withdrew its recommendation of the book and instead approved an alternate biology text which the board of trustees approved.

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Incident: Objections to Holt, Rinehart and Winston's Biology: Second Edition in Fort Worth high school science classes due to its "bias for Charles Darwin's evolution theory and its graphic presentation of human reproduction."

Initator: Parents
Resolution: School trustees rejected the book despite recommendation by a textbook committee of educators; the trustees then reversed themselves and adopted the textbook by a vote of 5-0.

UTAH

Utah adopts textbooks on a statewide basis; two literature books adopted for high school use are Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich's Adventures in Reading: Heritage Edition (1980) and McDougal, Littell and Company's Literature (1983); both have deleted various lines and passages from their versions of the William Shakespeare play "Romeo and Juliet."

VERMONT

During the past school year, there were no censorship incidents reported from Vermont.

VIRGINIA

Incident: The word "unalienable" was deleted from a passage of Declaration of Independence in 7th grade history textbook, American Adventures, used throughout the state.
Initiator: Scholastic Book Service, the publisher
Resolution: Virginia State Board of Education has called for the U.S. Department of Education to make an in-house investigation of textbook censorship. All publishers of state-approved texts must now declare what they have cut and why.

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Incident: Objections to classroom discussion of nuclear war, suicide, sex education and other topics that allegedly invade student's privacy rights and violate the Hatch Amendment in Arlington County public schools without prior parental permission.
Initiator: Parents for Academics, a parent's group
Resolution: The situation is ongoing but no action has been taken to restrict the objectionable topics.

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Incident: Passages with sexual overtones, totaling more than 400 lines, were deleted from "Romeo and Juliet" and "Hamlet" in the literature anthologies Arrangement in Literature and England in Literature, America Reads Series used throughout the state's high schools.
Initiator: Scott, Foresman and Company, the publisher. It was discovered that other major publishers have similarly edited "Romeo and Juliet." Among those publishers: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich; Macmillan, Inc.; Ginn and Company; McDougal, Littel and Company; and Webster Division, McGraw-Hill.

Resolution: The state board of education formally declared its opposition to the pre-publication censorship of William Shakespeare. The House of Delegates commended the state board of education for its opposition to the bowdlerization of Shakespeare. Late summer 1985, the state board of education will meet with representatives of major publishers to discuss the prevention of further pre-censorship.

WASHINGTON

Incident: Objections to sex-education book, Show Me, in the Seattle Public Library due to "sexual explicitness" and "inappropriatness" which allegedly violates a state law against child exploitation.

Initiator: Eastside Citizens for Decency through Law

Resolution: King County prosecutor recommended removal of the book; the library board unanimously voted to keep the book.

* * * * *

Incident: Objections to production of play, based on Studs Terkel's Pulitzer-prize winning novel Working, at Bethel High School due to parts that were "obscene and unsuitable for a high school audience."

Initiator: Local pastor and parents

Resolution: Superintendent refused to take any action to prohibit presentation of the play.

WEST VIRGINIA

Incident: Objections to sex education book, Changing Minds, Changing Bodies, in the Madison Public Library because of alleged "pornographic content." Removal urged.

Initiator: County Commission members

Resolution: Library board decided to allow book to remain on library shelves.

WISCONSIN

Incident: Objections to a movie on the Vietnam war shown to students in American History classes at Waukesha's North High School due to "sexually explicit" and "inappropriate" scenes.

*** Resolution: The superintendent removed the film after seven years of use at the school. The school board voted 8-3 to support the action of the superintendent, although he went outside the guidelines of policy for challenges to material. The board then voted to revise the guidelines to permit action by the superintendent without prior approval by the school board.

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Incident: Objections to Maurice Sendak's In the Night Kitchen, Robert Newton Peck's Trig, Shel Silverstein's A Light in the Attic, and Harry Allard's The Stupids Die at Beloit's Cunningham Elementary School because they are "disrepectful to children," and contain offensive "language," and "nudity."

Initiator: Parent

Resolution: The school board held a hearing attended by parents, teachers and librarians. Afterward, the board voted to retain all four books. However, members of the Eagle Forum have continued to protest these books.

WYOMING

Incident: Request for review of ten Judy Blume books, including Tiger Eyes, Deenie, Then Again Maybe I Won't and six Lois Lowry books including Taking Care of Terrific, Autumn Street and Find a Stranger, Say Goodbye in Casper's Natrona County School District libraries because they are "subtle and filthy."

Initiator: Parents

Resolution: School board voted to retain the books.

*** Indicates that challenged material was either removed or restricted in this state.

Challenged Materials
1984-1985

TITLES

Adolescents Today (textbook)
Adventures in Reading; Heritage Edition, 1980 (textbook)
Albert Herbert Hawkins: The Naughtiest Boy in the World
Albert Herbert Hawkins and the Space Rocket
American Adventures, 1983 (textbook)
Ancient Evenings
Are You There God? It's Me Margaret
Arrangement in Literature, 1979 and 1982 (texthook)
As I Lay Dying
Autumn Street
Beggar Man, Thief
Biology, 2nd edition (textbook)
Biology for Living, 1985 (textbook)
Blubber (5)
The Catcher in the Rye (4)
Changing Minds, Changing Bodies
A Christmas Story (film)
The Chocolate War (4)
The Color Purple
Cujo
Deenie (5)
The Devil Comes to Church
The Diary of Anne Frank (2)
An Enemy of the People
England in Literature, America Reads, 1985 (textbook)
Exercise in Physical Fitness (film)
Facts About Sex: A Basic Guide (textbook)
Find a Stranger, Say Goodbye
Finding My Way
Football Dreams
Footfalls
Forever
Friends Till the End
Halloween
The History of Witchcraft
Honey of a Chimp
Huckleberry Finn
Human Story: Facts on Birth, Growth and Reproduction (textbook)
I Am the Cheese
In the Night Kitchen
It's Not the End of the World
Juggling
The Last Mission
Let's Talk About Health, 1980 (textbook)

Life Science, 1985 (textbook)
A Light in the Attic
Literature, 1983 (textbook)
Live from New York (record album)
Longarm in Virginia City
The Lottery
Meet the Vampire
Metrication, American Style (pamphlet)
My Darling, My Hamburger
Mistral's Daughter
Never Cry Wolf (film)
Nightwork
Of Mice and Men (3)
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (book and film)
Our Bodies, Ourselves (2)
Playboy (magazine) (2)
Possible Impossibilities
Revolution in Central America (textbook)
Romeo and Juliet (film) (3)
Seven Arrows
Show Me (2)
Single and Pregnant (textbook)
Sioux City Past and Present (textbook)
The Sisters Impossible
Sorcerer and Friends (play)
Sports Illustrated (magazine) (2)
Star Witness
Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself (2)
The Stupids Die
Summer of '42
Superfudge
Taking Care of Terrific
Then Again Maybe I Won't (3)
Tiger Eyes (4)
Tiger Times (school newspaper)
To Kill a Mockingbird (2)
Trig
Understanding Your Health (textbook)
Understanding Your Sexuality (textbook)
Valley of the Horses (2)
Voices from the High School (play)
Watcher in the Woods
A Way of Love, A Way of Life
Witches of Eastwick
Working
A Wrinkle in Time
Zork: The Malifestro Quest

() indicates number of challenges during past school year